

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Troops Abroad Get Facts on Discharge

Eisenhower Says Demobilization Ahead of Schedule; Strength of Army Threatened

U. S. PRESTIGE ABROAD AT STAKE

Congress and Public Must Determine Size and Duties of Peacetime Military Forces

Homesick GI's who, not long ago, were demonstrating at their posts in many parts of the world to the chant of "We want to go home" are now more quiet. The calmer attitude, now prevailing, has resulted in part from the detailed announcement of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Army Chief of Staff, outlining a plan by which servicemen will be discharged. The sterner position taken by field commanders against demonstrations has also had a sobering effect.

But a number of important issues relating to our foreign policy and our military policy were brought out into the open by the protests of our servicemen, and some of these issues are still unsettled—are still the subject of misunderstanding or disagreement.

Foreign Policy

One of these issues is a question of foreign policy. It is this: "Why must America keep its troops on foreign soil now that the war is over?" The answer of those who are in authority in our government is that we fought the war, not merely to defeat Germany and Japan, but also to establish conditions in those countries which will prevent them from ever starting out again on wars of aggression.

The war really isn't over, so it is argued, until those conditions have been established. The war-making powers of these countries must be destroyed. They must be rendered incapable of starting another war. So far as possible, democratic and peaceful governments must be set up and maintained. If we, having won the war, should step out and let the Germans and Japanese do as they please, as we did after the last war, they would soon be ready to fight again.

In order to do the job which is before us, we, together with our Allies, must occupy the defeated nations for some time. If we do not do so, the costly war we have just waged will prove to have been in vain.

The trouble is that we cannot carry out a policy such as this, cannot continue for a long time to help direct the course of affairs in the defeated nations without keeping a large body of troops in those countries. And that is a thing which America has not done before. To maintain troops on foreign soil in peacetime breaks with American tradition. To many Americans this goes against the grain. Naturally, they are tired of war and are

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SEPARATION CENTER FINANCE BRANCH



The dream of millions of soldiers

Talks to Students

By Walter E. Myer

When we read about the way people lived in earlier days—about the customs, amusements, forms of recreation, and so on—we are likely to get the impression that life in those days must have been very boring and monotonous. But I wonder if it was? There were no automobiles, it is true, no radios, no phonographs. Forms of entertainment were simpler. Homes were plainer and so was food.

I am not sure, however, that we who spent our childhood during the early years of this century did not have as much fun and excitement as the young people do today. We had less material possessions, but for that very reason, the things which we had were used and appreciated more. I had very few books to read, but that very fact makes them stand out in my memory even today. Not only do I remember the titles of these books, but I still know what was in them. Certain facts and ideas were burned into my memory as I read and re-read these books, and they will always be among my mental possessions.

The same thing was true of childhood toys; of the games and sports and enjoyments of adolescence and young manhood. It was true, not only of me, but of others who grew up in that simpler time.

I would not, if I could, carry the young people of today back to the life which existed before World War I. There are so many more opportunities now for a full and rich development. I regret, however, that the wants of so many young people seem to have outrun the expanding opportunities. I am sorry that so many people, young and old, have apparently lost some of the old capacity to enjoy simple things, and that, in so many cases, happiness seems to depend upon the acquisition of things still out of reach.

It is particularly unfortunate that many people lean so heavily upon expensive pleasures. Boys and girls who have a hundred sources of inexpensive enjoyment and recreation unknown to earlier generations too often feel that all is lost unless they have a car at their command. They insist upon the use of the family automobile, heedless of the needs of their parents. They make life miserable for the family unless they can have everything they want regardless of cost.

The double pity of all this is that these young people not only make life uncomfortable for those about them, but they are destroying their own chance to live in contentment and happiness. They are getting into the habit of depending for their satisfactions upon things which are hard to get, and which, in the nature of the case, they frequently cannot get. Such habits account for a large proportion of the unhappiness of life.

Spanish Government Combats Opposition

Resistance Against Franco Group Grows as Exiled Spaniards Urge Allied Action

ISSUES OF CIVIL WAR NOT SETTLED

Opponents Say Franco Aided Nazis In World War; Supporters Hold Spain Remained Neutral

When 51 nations of the world met recently in London for the first session of the Assembly of the United Nations Organization, no representative of Spain was present. That nation is still absent because the UNO has barred it from membership. But though Spain is absent from the London deliberations, it is not forgotten. The Spanish issue, the question of what, if anything, should be done about General Franco and his government, is in the minds of the delegates and is a subject of many unofficial discussions.

General Franco, who came to power in Spain shortly before the recent war broke out, holds uneasily and uncertainly to his position. There are rumblings of revolt within that country, and there are Spaniards hostile to his regime who have fled to France and other countries, and who are trying to get foreign support for a movement to oust the General. A number of prominent Spanish leaders have set up a government-in-exile in Mexico City, and they are trying to induce the other nations to recognize their political organization as the real government of Spain.

There are conflicting reports as to what may happen within that troubled country. One persistent report is that General Franco will step out of office and will restore the monarchy, with Prince Don Juan, son of the last Spanish king, being placed upon his father's vacated throne. There is a question, however, as to whether, even if the prince were made king, he would have much actual power. It is considered possible that the king would be merely a puppet ruler, with General Franco actually dictating policies.

Foreign Pressure

Another possibility is that certain of the nations, including the United States, may bring pressure to bear upon Franco in the effort to compel him to surrender the reins of government. Relations between the United States and the Franco regime are unquestionably strained. We have called our ambassador to Spain home, and he has not returned to his post in Madrid. Several other of our diplomatic officials have also been recalled.

There is a similar strong feeling against the Franco government in France and Great Britain, and there have been reports, though they may not be true, that Britain, France, and

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Spanish Issue

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America might take action to force Franco's removal. On the other hand, there is much opposition in each of these three countries to any interference in Spain's affairs.

Thus the Spanish issue is a subject of sharp debate. To understand this issue, one must go back a few years and study the historical background of the Spanish problem.

The present unsettlement and disorder can be traced back to 1931. Until that time the Spanish government, except for brief periods, had been a monarchy. The last of the kings was Alphonso XIII. His government was neither efficient nor progressive. It did little to improve the lot of the common people, whose standards of living were very low.

Resentment and discontent grew, and in 1931, there was a brief, bloodless revolution which forced Alfonso from the throne and set up a republic. The new government claimed that its purpose was to improve the living conditions of the masses. It began to break up big landholdings and to divide the land among small farmers and farm workers. It also undertook to raise wages and improve the conditions of factory workers.

Reform or Communism?

Opponents of the new government insisted that it was going far beyond the program of land and wage reform. They said that its real purpose was to establish communism and to discourage religion.

The quarrel between the friends and opponents of the republic soon developed into a civil war. The conflict started in 1936 and lasted two and a half years.

The revolt against the republic was led by a number of army leaders, headed by General Francisco Franco. Franco's forces insisted that they were fighting to check communism, to keep the land and industry of the country from falling into government ownership, and to defend religion.

The government forces claimed that they were trying to establish a demo-



Among the men with a stake in the future course followed by Spain are (left to right) Francisco Franco, present head of the Spanish government; Juan Negrin, premier of the government just before the civil war and now living in exile; Don Juan, son of the last king of Spain; and Don Diego M. Barrio, president of the Spanish exile government in Mexico City.

cratic government and to institute reasonable reforms which would raise the standards of living. They said that they were elected by a majority of the people of Spain, and that Franco was trying to set up a rule of force.

This civil war turned out to be the preliminary skirmish in the great war which was soon to follow. Russia did all that she could to help the Spanish government forces, who were called "Loyalists" or "Republicans" by their friends, and "Reds" by their enemies. Germany and Italy did all that they could to help Franco.

The United States, Great Britain, and France adopted a neutral course. They refused to ship supplies to either of the contending Spanish forces. This policy really helped Franco, for even without our supplies, he could do very well, for he received a great deal from Germany and Italy. The government forces did not receive much from Russia, because of the difficulty of getting Soviet supplies.

After two and one half years of war, Franco won and set up a dictatorial government. He ruled with an iron hand. Thousands of his political opponents were imprisoned. He has adopted strong measures to restore order and stability in the land, but the country has not yet recovered from civil war. It is poor and impoverished, and many of the people, though how large a proportion we do not know, are bitterly opposed to the Franco regime.

At present it does not seem probable that the opponents of Franco

within Spain can overthrow him. It is unlikely that this could be done unless the army should turn against him, and there is no immediate prospect that it will do so.

If Franco is deprived of power, it will be because of intervention from the outside. Franco's position is, of course, weakened by the fact that the United Nations Organization has decided to bar Spain from membership so long as he remains in power.

Furthermore, many people in the United States, France, and England think that these democratic nations should take action, such as cutting off trade relations, against the Spanish dictator. At the same time, a large section of opinion of each of these nations is opposed to such a course.

Since the question of American policy toward the Franco government has become an important issue, it is important to examine the conflicting views. One school of thought is as follows:

"As part of the job of winning the war and keeping the peace, it is the duty of the Allies to do away with fascist governments wherever they may be. It was not merely Germany and Italy that we fought; it was also the things they stood for: that is fascism and nazism. That is what threatens the peace of the world. General Franco was put in power by nazifascist governments, and throughout the war he was favorable to Germany and Italy—at least as long as it appeared that they might win.

"General Franco worked closely with the Axis powers and publicly expressed the hope that they would win the war. He permitted them to use Spain and Spanish territory in Africa as a base for spying. He sent troops to help the Nazis fight the Russians. In many other ways, he gave aid to the Axis powers.

"Not only is the Franco government hostile to democracy, but it is a dangerous enemy of democracy and of the Allies. Spain, under Franco, could be used as a basis where fascist underground movements might get started.

"Franco's Spain is especially dangerous because of the influence it may have over Latin Americans. Nearly all the Latin Americans speak Spanish. They look to Spain as the mother country and if Spain is fascist and anti-democratic, all Latin America may be influenced."

For Franco

Such are the arguments advanced by Franco's opponents. Those who oppose such a policy argue in this way:

"It is contrary to American policy to interfere with the governments of other nations unless those nations are making war upon us, or are threatening to do so. Certainly we should not adopt the policy of taking up arms against any country which happens not to be democratic. If we did that we would be at war with a large part of the world, including Russia.

"Furthermore, we cannot successfully argue that Spain, under General Franco, gave active support to our enemies. Whatever Franco's personal views may have been, he undertook to carry out a neutral policy during the war. When the Axis powers were winning, he could not stand out against them. If he had done so, and had been attacked, the Allies were not in a position to come to his defense. Hence, he was obliged to remain on seemingly friendly terms with the Nazis.

"However, he did not let them dictate all his policies. At the time of the North African struggle, he refused to allow Hitler to use Spain as the base for attacks against the Allied forces. If he had surrendered on this point, the Nazis might well have won the North African campaign, but he did not do so. Nor did Franco follow Mussolini's example by attacking France when she was being overthrown by Germany.

"Spain is not adopting an aggressive attitude. She is seeking no one else's territory. Her influence in Latin America is not great. The Latin Americans have their own problems and decide upon their own policies.

Such are the arguments with respect to what American policy should be in dealing with the Franco regime in Spain. This issue may receive increasing attention of the UNO.



The people of Spain, like most other Europeans, are in extreme poverty

PICTURES, INC.

Spain Is a Land of Sharp Contrasts

SPAIN is a land of sharp contrasts—of gay fiestas and grueling poverty, of rich olive orchards and dry sheep pastures, of snowcapped mountains and sun-warmed beaches. Bounded by Portugal on the west, Spain is separated from France on the north by the almost impassable Pyrenees Mountains. The Rock of Gibraltar, connected to southern Spain by a narrow isthmus, commands the Atlantic entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. Here the British have built a great fortress to guard the 14-mile strait between Europe and Africa.

Spain's long shoreline is washed by the waters of the Bay of Biscay on the north and west, by the Atlantic on the southwest, and by the Mediterranean on the east. Her remoteness from the rest of Europe and her position on a world sea lane inclined Spanish people toward commerce at an early date.

Inside her natural frontiers of mountain and water, Spain has a land area of 190,607 square miles, which makes her about one-fourth larger than our state of California. Most of the 26,000,000 people of this extremely mountainous country live in the narrow strips of coastal lowlands. There, too, are located the larger cities—Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, and Malaga.

The mountains rise sharply from the lowlands in great ranges which enclose a high plateau, known as the Meseta. This treeless tableland is itself cut by several valleys and ranges of the rough Sierras. Madrid, Spain's capital, is one of the few important cities on the interior plateau, which occupies three-fourths of Spain.

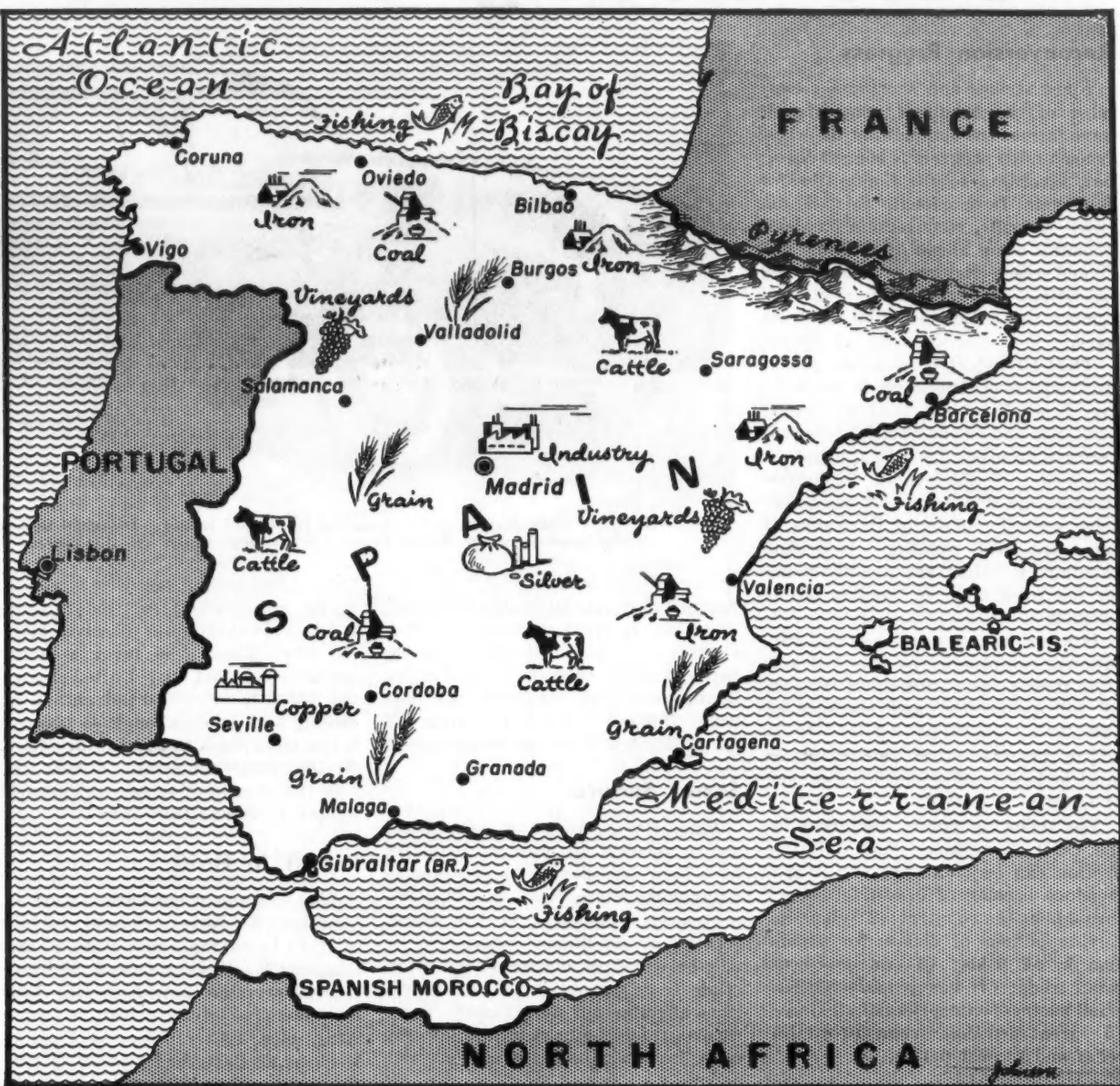
Poor Transportation

Because of the broken nature of the country, it has been difficult to build and operate an adequate system of roads and railroads. Many of the mountain barriers are impassable in winter, and for the most part the streams are unnavigable. On the average a Spanish railroad has to travel two miles up, down, and around to go one mile as the crow flies.

Spain, therefore, has never become a closely knit, unified nation. It is a land of regions, separated by mountains and mesas; and the climate and geography have shaped distinctive personalities and characteristics for the people living within these areas. People think of themselves first as Catalonians or Andalusians, Galicians or Asturians—depending on the part of the country in which they live—and secondly as Spaniards.

In the sixteenth century Spanish kings ruled much of western Europe. Spain was a world power and her galleons plied the seven seas, laden with goods and treasures from her world-girdling empire. Spanish adventurers had continued the work of Columbus and Isabella, building a great empire stretching from California to Argentina. Spain also owned colonies in Africa and the far Pacific. But gradually Spain weakened, losing most of her empire. Today her overseas possessions number only the Balearic Islands of the Mediterranean, a few sectors in Africa which include Spanish Morocco, and the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa.

In the nineteenth century Spain was torn by a series of long civil wars. Currently she enjoys an uneasy peace while she attempts to rebuild her coun-



Spain shares the Iberian Peninsula with Portugal

MAP FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

try, shattered by a bitter civil war which ended in 1939. Spain was officially neutral in World War II, as in World War I.

Most of the Spanish people are extremely poor, 56 per cent of them earning a meager living in agriculture. Many work as laborers in the olive and orange groves and in the hillside vineyards on the great estates. A large number of families live in little villages, driving burro-drawn carts to the outlying fields. Sometimes in the upland valleys they own their own little farms. Most farm workers and small landholders, however, barely eke out an existence.

Life for the average Spanish peasant is simple and his work is hard. He has few modern conveniences. Rain-water piped into cisterns is often his sole source of water. His farming methods are often primitive, for he is often illiterate and has never heard of modern improvements. Moreover, the landlords of the large estates usually do not feel inclined or able to spend the money necessary to lighten the load of the farm workers and improve their living conditions.

Although a large proportion of the people are engaged in agriculture, production is not always high because of unfavorable climate and crude methods of cultivation. Among the more important crops are wheat, barley, rye, oats, grapes, cork, and olives. Normally Spain leads the world in olive and cork production. Her Malaga grapes,

Valencia oranges, and her wines are famous.

On the arid plains of the high central plateau, sheep raising is the chief industry. This is the home of the Merino sheep, as well as of large flocks of goats and herds of mules and horses. The latter are known for their strength and endurance.

Spain's coastal waters make fishing an important industry. Sardines, tuna, and anchovies are caught for the export trade, while cod is a staple food for the poor people.

Since the recent Civil War, production as a whole is lower, both in the fisheries and in agriculture. Crop yields in some cases are 50 per cent less than those of 1936 and earlier. The result is that the people are gravely undernourished and have been for several years.

Industrial Activities

Almost one-fourth of the people work in industry, especially in the mines, in cotton spinning, lace and knitting mills, woolen textiles, paper and glass. Rich in mineral resources, Spain produces copper, iron, and coal. Spanish mercury, manganese, tungsten, and iron pyrites were in great demand during the recent war. New mining and smelting methods are necessary, however, before the mines can become really productive. Increased mineral production would go far to stimulate Spanish industry.

The rest of the people of Spain are

engaged in the professions and in commerce. Spain imports oil, machinery, chemicals, and cotton, and in return for these goods, she offers her minerals, wine, olives and other fruits, cork, and fish. At the present time, however, she is having difficulty in carrying on foreign trade.

It is strange but true that Spain still derives benefits from lands which once were her colonies. Through investments of private citizens, wealth still flows from such countries as Mexico and Peru back to that country.

In some ways Spain appears to be rich. This seems to be true when one considers the property Spanish citizens own in other countries, the rich Spanish minerals, and her farm products. The value of these items, taken together, make a substantial figure of national wealth. However, when the income of the ordinary city and farm workers is considered, Spain does not seem so rich. Wages and living standards are low.

Spain's superior geographical location and her rich mineral deposits give her hope for future prosperity. First, however, she must improve her school system because more than half of her people cannot read or write. She must raise the standards of living for her working people. She must also introduce improved methods of farming, modernize her mines, and expand her factories. She will probably need foreign financial aid to accomplish these goals.

The Story of the Week

Reconversion Progress

Since strikes and shortages occupy most of the headlines, many people have formed the opinion that the whole reconversion program is bogged down; but, according to the Committee for Economic Development, this is not true. Actually, reconversion has been booming along ahead of schedule and should reach its major goal of full peacetime employment by next September, this committee of businessmen says.

The CED, which is one of the youngest business organizations in the country, bases its report both on federal statistics and on information which it receives from its 2,900 local chapters. According to the report, 52,000,000 workers are now employed in civilian jobs, while hundreds of thousands of jobs are still unfilled. Individual earnings, it claims, are steadily rising as the production of civilian goods expands.

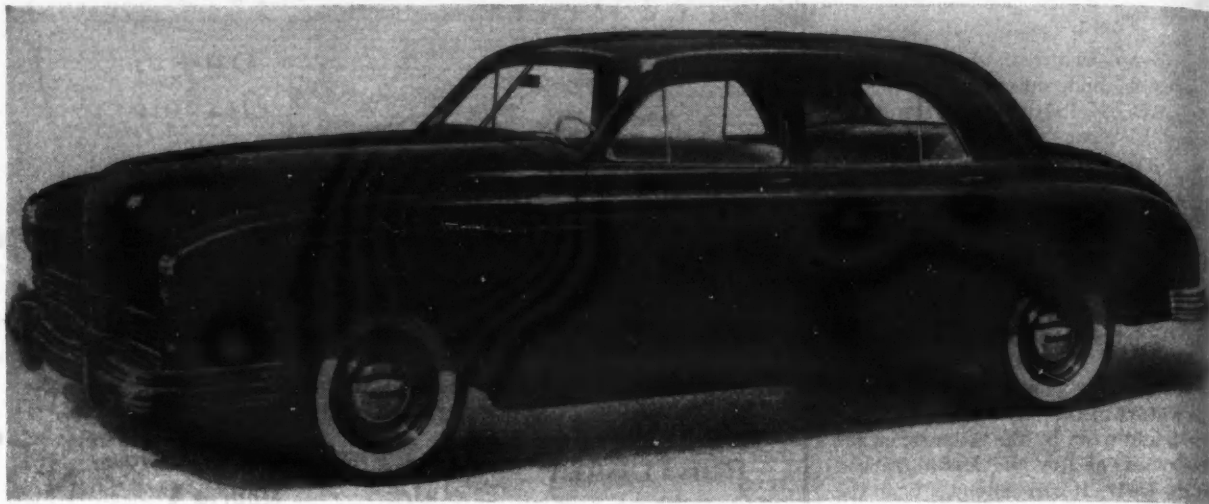
If labor, management, and the government can practice teamwork in settling their present difficulties, the goal of full production and employment can be accomplished easily. It is added, however, that price controls must be kept in effect until the danger of inflation is passed.

The following points are given by the CED as evidence that full production can be obtained: (1) A tremendous backlog of industrial orders throughout the country; (2) plans involving billions of dollars for expansion in all fields; (3) an enormous retail trade; (4) heavy needs for new small business enterprises of all kinds; (5) great demands from abroad for relief and reconstruction.

Immigration

The war has not made American citizens willing to open this country to immigrants from Europe. A recent Gallup poll asked, "Should we permit more persons from Europe to come to this country each year than we did before the war, should we keep the number about the same, or should we reduce the number?"

Only 5 per cent of the public indicated they thought more immigrants should be admitted; 32 per cent were willing for the same number to come



NEW CAR. This is the Kaiser, new car named for Henry Kaiser. Designed to compete in the low-priced field, the automobile is the product of the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation, which has the famous shipbuilder as one of its partners

in; and 51 per cent wanted fewer Europeans to be admitted. War veterans were less inclined to admit the foreigners than were others. Fifty-six per cent of the veterans wanted to see immigration cut, while 34 per cent were willing to see immigration stay at its prewar levels or even be increased.

Secret Service

Plans for an American secret service to operate in foreign countries have been agreed upon by representatives of the State, Navy and War Departments. Members of the secret service, or intelligence service as it will be called, would be stationed in other countries to report on conditions affecting our government. Their reports would be used by the government in determining its actions and policies.

Never during peacetime has the United States had such a service, although the practice is more common in other nations. The British intelligence service is highly developed and is highly secret. It is said to be very efficient in keeping its government informed on conditions of interest to it. We, on the other hand, have relied upon information collected by a number of agencies whose work in this field has not been coordinated.

During the war we depended upon the intelligence divisions of the Army and Navy. We also established the

Office of Strategic Services to collect useful information for the government. This agency was dissolved after the war. Those who favor a secret service feel that the United States has often been at a disadvantage in dealing with foreign countries because it has not always had full information on important problems. Others oppose the element of secrecy in an intelligence service of this kind.

Revolt in Haiti

Like so many of her Latin American neighbors, the little Caribbean republic of Haiti is making a new start toward democracy. Having ousted her dictatorial wartime president, Elie Lescot, she has given power to three Army men, representing the Popular Democratic Party and pledged to give the country free elections and a truly democratic government.

Behind the revolt which unseated President Lescot was a long record of misgovernment. Elected president in 1941, Lescot lost no time in altering Haiti's constitution so that he might wield dictatorial power. He suppressed civil liberties and filled the Haitian legislature with his own supporters. Behind the scenes, he cornered large quantities of wealth and property for himself and his family.

Under his rule, the average Haitian's poverty reached new depths. Haiti, eastern half of the island of Santo Domingo, has long been the poorest, most densely populated republic in the Western Hemisphere. Its 3,000,000 people, descendants of African slaves, have never won more than a meager living from the farms which are their main support. Under Lescot, their living costs trebled, and the average peasant was reduced to eating only one meal a day.

Better Tires Coming

Even the most optimistic automobile owners have never dreamed they would be able to buy tires which would last as long as their cars, and yet this astonishing development is a definite aim of the nation's rubber companies.

By using natural rubber sidewalls and synthetic rubber treads, the companies hope to make a single tire last for more than 100,000 miles, which is a greater distance than the average car travels. Of course, there is still much experimenting to be done be-

fore this objective is reached. Artificial rubber itself was not much more than a dream until the war forced its development. Scientists have not yet explored all its possibilities. Even with natural rubber, there are still many improvements which can be made.

Mileage was doubled in tires many years ago when the color of tires was changed from gray to black. The new pigment reduced the decaying effect of sunlight on the rubber. An equally important improvement has been made during the war by using the new synthetic rubber, butyl, to make inner tubes which need to be pumped up only three or four times a year.

Korea's Future

When the Big Three foreign ministers met at Moscow last month, they agreed to place the problem of Korea in the hands of a joint Russian-American commission. The commission was to help Korea restore her industrial life and set up a democratic provisional government.

Work is now under way on both these projects. First to be dealt with is the economic problem. With her territory divided into two occupation zones, Korea has had great difficulty restoring the normal flow of food, raw materials, and manufactured goods from one part of the country to another. Now the Russian zone, in which manufacturing is more important than farming, is starved for rice. The primarily agricultural American zone, meanwhile, has a rice surplus but insufficient coal. The commission is trying to remedy this situation.

Setting up a representative provisional government promises to be quite as hard as solving Korea's economic problems. Russian and American authorities are confronted by a bewildering political scene, in which there are more than 50 parties claiming to represent the Korean people. Five leading ones, however, have pledged their followers to cooperate with the commission and to abide by its decisions.

Preserving a Shrine

Independence Hall, the nation's famous Cradle of Liberty, will no longer be obscured by soft-drink stands, parking lots, and musty office buildings in Philadelphia's former business section. The state of Pennsylvania will spend



Scene from Walt Disney's forthcoming feature-length cartoon, "Make Mine Music"

four million dollars to clear away the buildings around this shrine and to make a worthy environment for the rich traditions which live there.

During the past quarter-century the modern business section of Philadelphia has moved westward, leaving Independence Square in a rough and dingy neighborhood, a place of warehouses, dirty store windows, and cluttered souvenir shops. There has also been the constant danger of fires spreading to destroy noted landmarks.

Pennsylvania hopes to correct this situation within a year. A park will stretch for three blocks in front of the Square. Grass and trees will surround it with the serenity which it enjoyed in colonial times. The Betsy Ross home, Congress Hall, Christ Church, Carpenters' Hall, and other buildings will once again have a setting in harmony with their colonial simplicity and historical importance.

Arctic Airway Important

With the development of the long-range plane, the Arctic air routes have become so significant that they must be considered in relation to national defense, General H. H. Arnold, Army Air Forces commander, said recently. The shortest air lines connecting the majority of world population and industrial areas cross some portion of the area within the Arctic Circle.

Throughout the war Allied flyers flew combat planes loaded with critical cargo and key personnel over routes crossing Greenland and Iceland to England, or over the Aleutians to Russia. These flyers, aided by accurate weather forecasts from 73 northern weather stations, successfully guided their planes through more difficult weather than exists farther north. In the Arctic, where the thermometer never goes lower than 60



Here is the Army-Sikorsky helicopter which recently set new records for speed, altitude, and load-lifting. It topped 21,000 feet, flew 114 miles per hour, and lifted 18 people. The records were set on separate flights.

degrees below zero, it is possible to fly above storms and clouds. There, it is no more difficult for aviation to overcome cold conditions than it is for the motor industry to "winterize" automobiles.

The Arctic thus becomes the center of air-age geography. The United States is making further studies of flying conditions over Arctic routes.

Britain and Siam

Throughout the war years, Siam played a double role. In 1942, over-



Okay, let's go!

whelming Japanese strength forced her government to declare war on the Allies. But, while pretending to work with Japan, the Siamese government was actually directing a strong pro-Allied resistance movement.

The recently signed peace treaty between Britain and Siam gives the Siamese government some credit for its part in the fight against Japan. At the same time, however, it places heavy burdens on Siam.

The peace settlement requires Siam to restore all British money and property lost during the war. This would be difficult under any circumstances, but will be particularly hard because of two other conditions laid down in the treaty. One prohibits the export of tin, rubber, and teak, which are important Siamese products, without permission of the Allies. The other requires Siam to give her entire supply of rice as a gift for famine relief in other parts of southeast Asia. If Siam could sell these products, she might be able to meet her payments to Britain and finance her own recovery. As things stand, she will probably be forced into debt.

The treaty also restores Britain's special trade privileges in Siam and gives her important influence in Siamese foreign relations. Under the terms of the treaty, Siam may not build a canal across the Malay peninsula without British approval and she may not withdraw from any treaty to which Britain is a party unless the British permit it.

Spanish Leaders

Here are the five men who are playing the most important roles in Spanish politics today—one inside Spain and four outside the country in exile.

General Francisco Franco has been "The Leader" of Spain since the end of the Spanish civil war in 1939. Before becoming head of the government he had established a brilliant military career. He is 53.

Versatile Juan Negrin, also 53, was the last premier of the Spanish Re-

public before the civil war. He is not a member of the Spanish government-in-exile, whose headquarters are in Mexico City, but he is said to be willing to go along with it. Negrin's Socialist Party favors considerable control of business by the government and the breaking up of the large Spanish estates.

Diego Martinez Barrio is temporary president of the Spanish Republic-in-exile, and lives in Mexico City. He was president of Spain for a time during the days of the Republic. Sixty years old, he is more conservative than Negrin and favors somewhat less government activity in Spain's economic life.

Prominent in government and scientific circles in Republican Spain, 66-year-old Jose Giral is now premier of the government-in-exile. He is even more conservative than Barrio and Negrin, and favors still less government control.

Thirty-two-year-old Prince Don Juan is the hope of Spanish Royalists, who would like to see him become King of Spain as his father was until 1931. Don Juan lives with his family in Switzerland.

Wage Rates

News stories about strikes and wage demands sometimes do not mention the basic hourly wage rates which are involved in the disputes. Here are the latest available figures for wages in three industries which are having labor trouble.

Steel: The average hourly wage in blast furnaces is \$1.09. This provides \$43.60 for a 40-hour week, or \$189 a month.

Automobile: The average worker receives \$1.05 an hour, \$42 for a 40-hour week, or \$182 a month.

Meat Packing: The average is 88 cents an hour, \$35.20 for a 40-hour week, or about \$152.50 a month.

During the war, of course, considerable overtime was paid in all three of these industries, which meant additional money in each paycheck. Moreover, some industries will continue to

work overtime during the next year until reconversion is completed.

Labor unions, however, are concerned about the fact that some industries are going back to the 40-hour week right away, and that eventually all industries will work a regular week. It is in preparation for such a time that unions are demanding higher basic hourly pay.

While numerous businesses and corporations, as a result of war profits, are able to pay higher wages now, they don't know what position they will be in a year or two from now. So they are unwilling to raise wages too high at the present time.

Death in the Mines

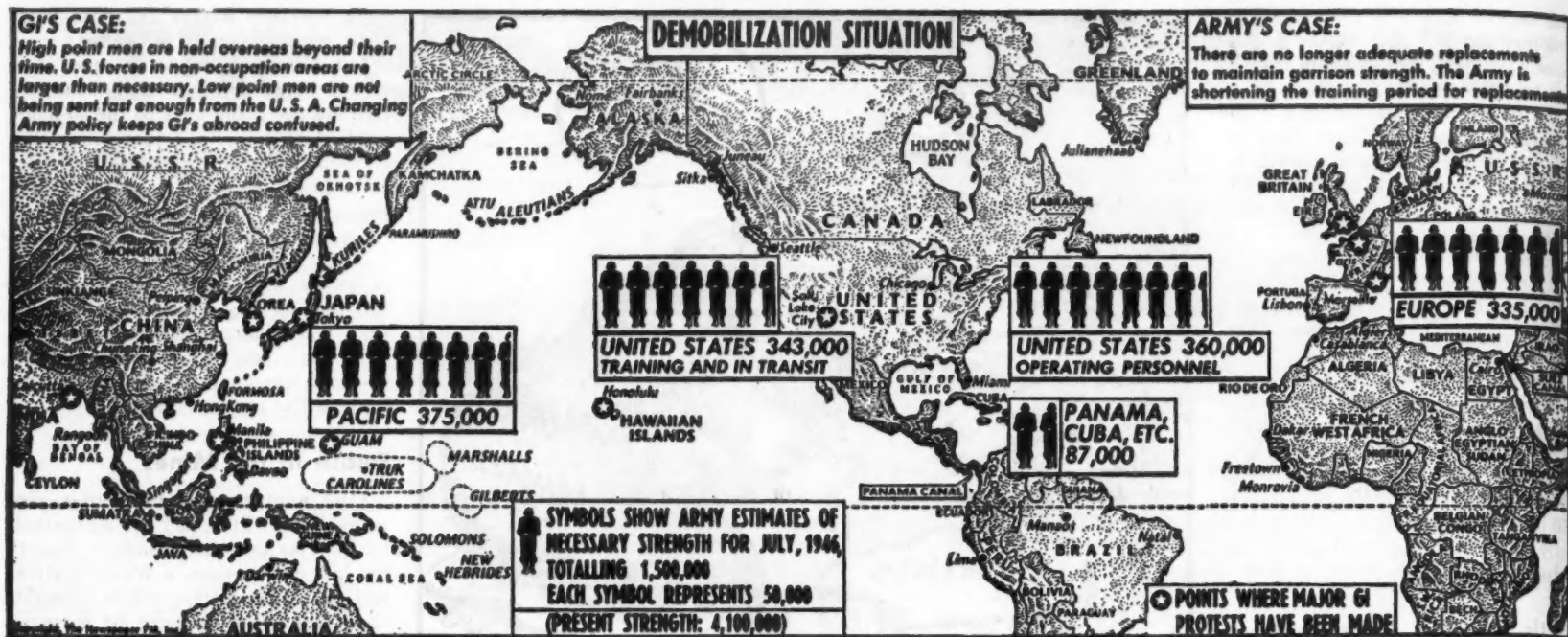
Coal mining costs the nation too many lives. This fact is emphasized by two major mine disasters within the last month—one in West Virginia and one in Kentucky—which brought about the death of some 40 persons. But a nation which is grieved by these two tragedies would be even more shocked if it realized that since Pearl Harbor an average of three men have died every day in American coal mines.

It must be remembered, of course, that coal mining is by its very nature one of the most hazardous of all occupations. Moreover, it is true that the accident rate has been slowly declining over the years. But the fact remains that many mine disasters could be avoided if greater accident precautions were taken; that is, if all mines had the safety precautions which the best ones do.

The federal Bureau of Mines is required by law to make regular inspection of coal mines and to publish its findings and recommendations. However, it must rely on public opinion to enforce those recommendations. It is a significant fact that in both the mines in which explosions occurred during the last month federal inspectors have recently found unsafe conditions, and in both cases mine operators had ignored the recommendations for improvement. Because of this situation many people are demanding stricter regulation of coal mining, either by the states or by the federal government.



Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium, first president of the United Nations Organization's General Assembly.



After July 1, the Army is planning a force of 1,500,000 men. This map shows where these troops will be stationed

U. S. Demobilization Plans

(Concluded from page 1)

anxious to bring GIs home quickly.

To keep our soldiers abroad, now that the fighting has ceased, requires of us that we carry out a policy new to American experience; and many Americans who supported the war aims while the war was in progress tend to forget them now.

Another issue is a matter of national policy. Assuming that we must continue to make our influence felt in Europe and Asia—in the defeated nations everywhere—the question is: "How shall we provide the troops to do this occupying work?" Shall we continue to draft men, who did not serve in the war, or try to depend wholly upon volunteers?

That question is still undecided. The Selective Service Act expires May 15. If it is not continued, the Army will find it difficult, and probably impossible, to maintain a force of 1½ million men, as it is planning to do. The American people and Congress must decide whether we need that large an Army and, if so, how it is to be mobilized and maintained.

Another Issue

Still another question related to this broad issue is why we are keeping men, not only in the enemy territories, but in friendly countries such as England, France, China, the Philippines, and a number of others. Our government has stated the reason why we are keeping them in China. There are still many Japanese in that large country who are under arms, who have not yet surrendered, and who have not been demobilized. Our government says we must keep our forces in China until this work has been done.

It says, furthermore, that we must keep a certain number of men in other friendly countries because we have billions of dollars worth of supplies in those lands—supplies which were being drawn from to prosecute the war. Our men must protect these materials until they can be disposed of. Congress should determine whether we have more troops for this work than is necessary.

While these larger issues were being considered by the American people, it was necessary to do something quickly to quiet the discontent which was manifesting itself in demonstrations

in many parts of the world. If these demonstrations had been confined to camps in the United States, or even to Manila, or other friendly territories, it would not have been such a serious matter, but it was a serious thing for servicemen quartered in Germany and Japan to stage demonstrations and to demand that they be released.

The leaders in these nations have had the idea all along that while the United States might fight fiercely while the war was in progress, the people of America would soon be sick of the whole thing; that they would soon retire from the field and take no part in the control of the enemy countries. Germans and Japanese have thought that if they were to lay low for a while, the Americans would get tired of occupying and would go home. Then the Germans and Japanese could resume their plans for aggression and begin again to prepare for war.

Our Army and Navy leaders have, therefore, been quick to explain to the GIs why they cannot be released until replacements are available. At the same time, these military leaders have given our servicemen a clear picture of the schedule for discharges.

General Eisenhower stressed two dates on the Army's schedule. By April 30, he said, all enlisted men ex-

cept volunteers who have either 45 points or 30 months' service will be out of the Army or aboard ships and bound for home to be discharged. And by June 30, all enlisted men with 40 points or two years' service will be back in civilian life. A total of 3,000,000 men now in uniform will thus be out of the Army by the middle of the summer, he said.

In explaining the demobilization which has taken place so far, Eisenhower said that while there has been a slowdown in recent days, the Army is really ahead of schedule. General George Marshall, who preceded him as chief of staff, told Congress and the nation last fall that the Army would discharge an average of 750,000 men a month for October, November, and December. As it turned out, the average was 1,200,000 men for each of those months. At this rate, Eisenhower said, we would soon have no Army, and it was found necessary to slow down the rate of discharges.

Under present plans, the Army will be down to a total of 1,500,000 men by July 1 from a wartime peak of over 8,000,000. So far there are some 400,000 men who have volunteered to serve in the peacetime Army. Until the Army can build up a force of at least three times that many volunteers, it is having to depend on the drafting of men between the ages of 18 and 25. The draft law, however, comes to an end May 15. If Congress does not

renew it beyond that date, the Army will have to rely solely on voluntary enlistments. Furthermore, it will have to release all drafted men within six months after the war emergency ends.

The Navy is continuing to work toward its goal of having 558,000 men by September—down from a wartime peak of 3,400,000. The Marines, with 482,000 men at the end of the war, will be down to about 100,000 at the same time. Both services will depend chiefly on volunteers.

These, in brief, are the essential figures in the demobilization program. The reviewing of them, however, does not necessarily put an end to the nationwide debate which has been going on since the troops overseas and at home engaged in their demonstrations. Congress is continuing to receive sacks heavy with mail from the soldiers and their families, who argue that demobilization has been unduly slow and has been carried out inefficiently.

Army Reply

In reply to the protests, General Eisenhower and others in authority claim that demobilization so far has been unusually swift, even to the point of weakening the Army to a dangerous extent. They agree that occasionally men have been released after shorter service than some of those still in uniform, but on the whole they say the plan has been handled fairly.

After listening to the arguments of the soldiers and the replies of the Army, outside observers believe that two courses of action should be taken. First, there should be a greater effort on the part of the government and the Army to make clear to the public and the soldiers why men are still needed in uniform; why they cannot be discharged overnight; exactly what the importance of their duties is in each of the spots to which they are assigned.

Second, there is need for the American people and Congress to give serious thought to many unsettled questions: What are we trying to accomplish in the occupation of Germany and Japan? How many men will be required for those tasks? How many men should we have in readiness to meet possible calls for troops for the United Nations Organization? What other world responsibilities should we consider in determining the size of our Army and Navy? It is to be hoped that such questions as these will have the careful attention of all Americans.



One of the many demonstrations staged by soldiers in protest against the demobilization slowdown

Contrast of U. S. and British Political Systems

LAST week we outlined the program of legislation which President Truman is asking Congress to adopt. We pointed to the fact that many of the members of Congress oppose this program. The opponents include a number of Democrats as well as a majority of the Republicans.

Whether Congress would enact the measures advocated by the President if these measures came to a vote, we do not know. The fact is that they are not coming to a vote. Some of them are being held in committees, and Congress is taking its time to debate the others. So nothing is being done with respect to certain important problems.

Stalemates between the legislative and executive branches of our government have occurred on a number of occasions in American history. The results are so serious that certain political observers think that our Constitution should be changed in order to make the government more like that of Great Britain, where deadlocks of this kind do not occur. Since this question has been raised, it would be worth our while to examine the British system to see how it works.

The House of Commons is the dominant body in the British parliament. If it passes a bill, the bill goes to the House of Lords. The House of Lords has a right to vote the measure down, but if it does so, the measure goes back to the House of Commons. If the House of Commons passes the bill a second time, it becomes a law without the approval of the Lords. This means, of course, that the real lawmaking body in England is the House of Commons.

Role of Cabinet

A very important group in the English government is the cabinet. It consists of about 20 members headed by the Prime Minister, who is the most powerful official in the government. His position corresponds to that of the President of the United States, though there are many differences in the two offices.

The cabinet is appointed by the King, but it has to have the support of the majority party in the House of Commons. Consequently, this party's leaders fill all or most of the cabinet posts. Not only do the cabinet members serve in an executive capacity, but they also keep their seats in the House of Commons. They exercise strong leadership in that body. All important bills are first agreed upon by the cabinet at its meetings and then introduced into the House of Commons by the cabinet members.

If the cabinet should introduce an important measure in the House of Commons and if the House should vote it down, this would mean that the cabinet no longer had the support of the Commons. The Prime Minister, as head of the cabinet, would then do one of two things:

(a) He might resign. Ordinarily, this is what he would do. He would hand his resignation to the King, who would then appoint another Prime Minister. This new Prime Minister would form a cabinet and would ask for a vote of confidence from the House of Commons. If the House of Commons gave him a vote of confidence, he and the cabinet would remain in power. If, on the other hand, the House refused to give him a vote of

confidence, he would report to the King that he had found it impossible "to form a government" and he, too, would resign. This process would go on until the King had selected men whom a majority of the Commons would support.

(b) If the Prime Minister decided that even though the House of Commons was against him and his policies, the country as a whole would support him, he would not resign. Instead, he would ask the King to dissolve the parliament or bring to an end the terms of office of all the members of the House of Commons. The King would be obliged to do this and an election would be held.

If the Prime Minister's party won the election, he would stay in power. If, on the other hand, he lost the election, he would resign and the King would appoint as Prime Minister a man who could command the support of the new House of Commons.

in line with its views and policies.

But suppose Congress did not actually vote against the President's measures but refused, as it is now doing, to take any action one way or the other. In that case, he could demand a vote of confidence; that is, he could insist that Congress vote on the question of whether or not it intended to support his general program. If the vote was favorable to the President, he would stay in power, and Congress would be obliged to act upon his measures. If he failed to receive majority support, he would either resign and be replaced by someone else, or he would call for a new election of members to Congress.

Those who think that the British system, or something similar to it, should be adopted in this country set forth these points in support of their case:

1. The British plan is more democratic than ours. It enables the people

something which is obviously opposed by a majority of people. It is assumed, in such cases, that most people, by election time, will have forgotten the unpopular action which was taken. If both Congress and the President knew, however, that an election might be held at any time, they would be more careful at all times to respect the wishes of the majority of voters.

Such are some of the arguments in favor of the British system. Those who oppose such a plan take this position:

"Our system is much more stable than that of the British. It would be upsetting to business and the nation to have an election called every time the President and Congress did not happen to agree. There is not often a complete deadlock between the executive and legislative branches. The very fact that both sides know they cannot change the political situation until election time causes them to make



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. Britain, like the United States, is a democracy, but her parliamentary system differs from our national government

Now let us suppose that the United States were today operating under a government like that of Great Britain. This is the way it would work: President Truman and his cabinet would have seats in Congress. The President, with the advice of his cabinet, would recommend a program of legislation such as he has already suggested. If Congress voted against any of the important measures recommended by the President, he might resign and allow Congress to choose a President whose policies it would support. If, however, the President thought that the people, if given a chance, would support him, he would dissolve Congress and would call a special election. If the new Congress was favorable to the President, it would enact his program of legislation. If, however, his opponents won out and the new Congress, like the old one, was opposed to his measures, he would then resign and Congress could select a President

to decide very quickly upon great national issues which are a cause of bitter dispute among government leaders. The English voters do not have to delay for long periods in making their opinions and influence felt.

2. This plan brings strong pressure to bear upon the executive and legislative leaders to work out their differences. They know that if they engage in a major dispute, and that if this dispute threatens to drag out, an election may be ordered. They cannot be certain of winning at the polls, and elections are costly and inconvenient to them; so they make a great effort to compromise and work together. For example, England has held only a few special elections in recent times.

3. The British system, if adopted here, would make both the President and Congress pay closer attention to public opinion at all times. As it is now, either the Chief Executive or the legislative body may occasionally do

compromises and try hard to work in harmony.

"Both the President and Congress, when they are engaged in a controversy, have the power to appeal to public opinion for support. Both of them are taking such action at the present time. If the people feel that the problem or issue is serious enough, they can force action of the kind they want by methods other than voting. Letters to congressmen and government officials have great influence on their actions.

"More often than not, the country gains when there is a lengthy study and debate over important bills. The nation's laws are sounder as a result. It is better to make laws too slowly than too rapidly.

These two conflicting points of view will be debated in the weeks ahead if the stalemate between the President and Congress continues for any length of time.

Suggested Study Guide for Students

GI Dispute

1. Why is it important that this country should maintain occupying forces in Germany and Japan?
2. What two methods may be used in selecting soldiers to do the work of occupation?
3. Why, according to Army officials, are we keeping soldiers in China and certain other countries which were friendly to us during the war?
4. What harm may come from the recent demonstrations by American soldiers in Germany and Japan?
5. Describe the plan outlined by General Eisenhower for the discharge of servicemen.
6. According to the Eisenhower plan, how many men will be in the Army on July 1?
7. How many men does the Navy expect to have in service by September?
8. What are two things which may be done to lessen dissatisfaction among the men in service?

Discussion

Many German and Japanese leaders have held out the hope that the United States, shortly after the end of the war, would become weary of its occupation responsibilities and would withdraw its troops from their lands. Here are some questions in this connection:

1. Do you think that these German and Japanese hopes will be realized?
2. Do you or do you not feel that the overwhelming desire of most soldiers stationed abroad to get home without delay may be the first stage of our military withdrawal from occupied lands?
3. Do you believe that it will be possible to maintain a large enough volunteer army to carry out our occupation responsibilities and safeguard our security?
4. If your answer to question 3 is "no," do you think that the draft

law should be continued after May 15, the date it is supposed to expire?

5. Do you think that if the Army provided better and more democratic treatment for enlisted men, it would be able to supply its manpower needs through voluntary recruitments?

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"On Bringing the Boys Home," by Ernest Lindley, *Newsweek*, January 21, 1946. The responsibility of Congress with respect to the demobilization problem.

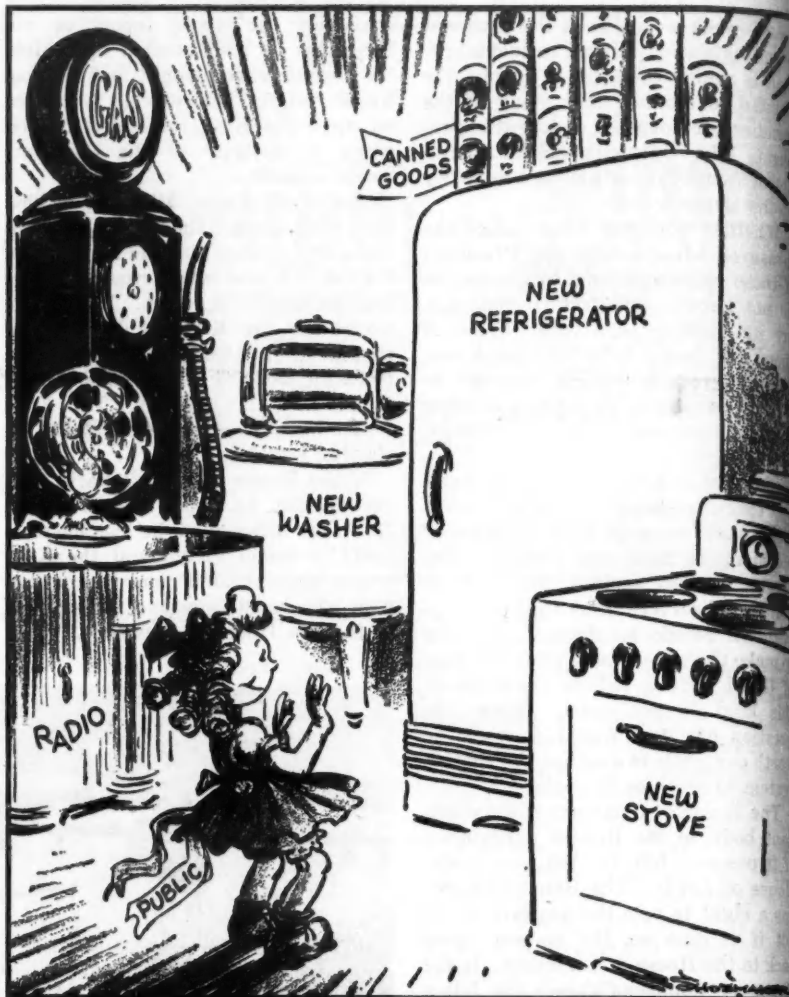
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"Home by Spring," *Time*, January 14, 1946. Why the Army put the brakes on its speedy demobilization procedure.

"Why GIs Must Wait," *United States News*, January 18, 1946. Until Congress decides peacetime role of U. S. armed forces, Army will hold experienced GIs.

Spain

1. How has the United Nations Organization shown its disapproval of the Franco regime in Spain?
2. What were the arguments in favor of the pre-civil war republican government in Spain, and what were the arguments against it?
3. What nations helped General Franco to win the Spanish civil war, and how did the policies of the United States, England, and France help him? What nation helped the republican government?
4. In what country has a Spanish government-in-exile been set up?
5. How is Franco accused of helping the Axis during World War II? Did he do everything that the Axis powers wanted him to do?



The natural desire of Americans to purchase the things which make life more enjoyable sometimes overshadows their interest in the vital problems which the nation must solve. If they are not again to be denied the comforts and luxuries for which they are now waiting so anxiously, they must work to prevent another war.

6. Why do some people think that Spain might exert a great influence in South America?
7. If a monarchy is established in Spain, who will probably be the king?

Discussion

1. In your opinion, did General Franco carry on a strictly neutral policy during the world war? Explain your answer.
2. Do you or do you not think that it would be dangerous for the Allies to leave Franco in power in Spain? Give reasons why or why not.
3. Under what circumstances, if at all, should the United Nations Organization interfere with the government or internal affairs of a nation such as Spain?

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"Franco Is Our Problem Child," by Sidney Wise. *Saturday Evening Post*, Aug. 4, 1945. Franco counts on U. S. and British favor in order to keep power at home.

Series of articles by Alfredo Mendizabal in *Commonweal*. "Spain's Last Chance," April 7, 1944; "What Not to Do with Spain," July 7, 1944; "Is a Solution Possible in Spain?" July 28, 1944; "Evolution and Revolution," January 12, 1945. Mr. Mendizabal calls upon England and U. S. to effect a "complete liberation" of totalitarian Europe, including Franco Spain.

"Kingdom or Chaos?" by Francis Stuart Campbell, a criticism of Mr.

Mendizabal's January 12th article with reply by Mr. Mendizabal, *Commonweal*, February 9, 1945. Mendizabal favors a third Spanish republic; Mr. Campbell, a liberal monarchy in preference to the present Franco regime. "Carlton Hayes and Friendship for Spain," by John La Farge. *American Magazine*, December 1, 1945. In support of General Franco.

Miscellaneous

1. How do you account for the fact that Spain usually keeps out of European wars?
2. Why does the Committee for Economic Development think that production will soon reach high levels?
3. What is the shortest route connecting a majority of the world's population?
4. After reading in this issue of the paper the wage rates in the steel, automobile, and meat packing industries, what were your impressions of them?
5. Who is the first President of the United Nations General Assembly?
6. What does the Gallup Poll show that the American people think about immigration?
7. Why are many of the people of Haiti discontented?
8. What are some of the problems that Korea faces?

Pronunciations

Don Juan—don whahn
Juan Negrin—whahn nay-green
Diego Barrio—dee-ay-go bah-ree-o
Cartagena—kahr-tah-heh-nah
Malaga—mah-lah-gah
Elie Lescot—eh-lee less-koh
Spaak—spahk

SMILES

New Employer: "I understand that John used to work for you. Is he a steady worker?"

Ex-Employer: "If he were any steadier, he would be motionless."

★ ★ ★

Landlady to Prospective Tenant: "How do you like this room as a whole?"

Prospective Tenant: "As a hole, it's fine, but I'm interested in seeing a room."

★ ★ ★

Explorer: "I don't know the meaning of fear."

Bored Listener: "Well, I wouldn't let a little word like that stump me. Look it up in the dictionary."

★ ★ ★

GI returned from Europe: "I spent my furlough in a very pretty city in Switzerland."

His Friend: "Berne?"

GI: "No, I almost froze."



ATKINS IN SAT. EVE. POST

"Here's the shirt I bought from you last week," said the angry customer. "You said that you would refund my money if it wasn't satisfactory."

"That's what I said," answered the clerk, "but I'm happy to tell you that we found your money quite satisfactory."

★ ★ ★

"I tell you, old friends are the best." "That's right! Just try to think of a new friend who has stood by you as long as the old ones."

★ ★ ★

The landlord was trying to collect rent from a struggling artist. After listening to him, the tenant said, "You know, my good man, that you ought to pay me to live here. Why, in years to come, people will come to see the place where the great artist Mixwell lived."

The landlord replied huffily, "They aren't going to wait that long. Unless you pay me by evening, they can say that tomorrow."

★ ★ ★

On a streetcar the other day a man gave a woman a seat. She fainted. On recovering, she thanked him. Then he fainted.

★ ★ ★

A government official had to decide whether the elderly lady's farm was located in the United States or Canada. When he announced to her that her property was just inside the United States, she seemed very much relieved and said, "I'm so glad to know that. They say that Canadian winters are terribly severe."